(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that it had received 97 proposals for grant of Deemed to be University status. A Screening Committee constituted by the UGC has recommended the visit by UGC's Expert Committee to 19 institutions. As many as 66 proposals were not found suitable for visit by its Expert Committee.

Unrecognized private universities in Kerala

689. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any private universities, unrecognized by Government are functioning in Kerala and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of students who have got themselves registered in the above universities; and

(c) whether Government consider to introduce any alternative arrangements for continuation of studies of the students involved in the private universities in view of the Supreme Court's judgement and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) No centralized data is being maintained in this regard.

(c) The Supreme Court of India has *vide* its judgement dated 11 February, 2004 in W.P. (C) No. 19/2004: Prof. Yash Pal & Ors. *Vs.* State of Chhattisgarh & Ors., directed the State of Chhattisgarh to take steps for giving affiliation to institutions of the Private Universities established under the Chhattisgarh Niji Kshetra Vishwavidyalaya (Sthapana Aur Viniyaman) Adhiniyam, 2002 by the already existing State Universities.

In view of above, the Chhattisgarh Government has been requested to inform whether any specific intervention is required to be taken by the Government of India in the matter. The UGC has also been requested to examine the judgement and its implications, particularly for the bonafide students enrolled with these "universities" so that, should the need arise, the Commission could be requested to take appropriate steps in the matter.